

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of distributing data from an e-mail enabled printer, comprising:
retrieving data from a memory of said e-mail enabled printer;
attaching said data to an e-mail;
sending said e-mail and attached data to an e-mail enabled device; and
storing at least said attached data in a job retention memory of said e-mail enabled device.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said retrieving data from a memory of said e-mail enabled printer comprises retrieving data from a job retention memory of said e-mail enabled printer.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said retrieving data from a memory of said e-mail enabled printer is initiated using a device in communication with said e-mail enabled printer.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said device in communication with said e-mail enabled printer includes a network device selected from a group consisting of a workstation, an e-mail enabled printer, and an e-mail server.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating an e-mail for attaching said data to, said e-mail including an e-mail address.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said creating an e-mail for attaching said data to comprises:

providing a list of available e-mail addresses;

selecting at least one of said available e-mail addresses; and

creating an e-mail addressed to each of said selected at least one available e-mail addresses.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said providing a list of available e-mail addresses comprises:

retrieving a list of stored e-mail addresses from a memory of said e-mail enabled printer; and

displaying said list of stored e-mail addresses for selection.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein said creating an e-mail for attaching said data to comprises:

retrieving at least one e-mail address entered by a user; and

creating an e-mail addressed to said at least one e-mail address entered by said user.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said attaching said data to an e-mail created by said e-mail enabled printer comprises attaching said data to an e-mail addressed to at least one designated e-mail address.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said sending said e-mail and attached data to an e-mail enabled device comprises sending an e-mail and attached data from said e-mail enabled printer to a network device selected from the group consisting of a workstation, an e-mail enabled printer, and an e-mail server.

11. A method of distributing a print job, comprising:
storing one or more print jobs in a memory of an e-mail enabled printer;
selecting at least one of said print jobs stored in said memory of said e-mail enabled
printer for distribution;
creating an e-mail;
attaching said selected at least one print job to said e-mail; and
sending said e-mail for distributing said selected at least one print jobs.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein storing at least one print job in a memory of
an e-mail enabled printer comprises:
sending a print job to an e-mail enabled printer;
receiving said sent print job at said e-mail printer; and
storing said print job in a job retention memory of said e-mail enabled printer.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said creating an e-mail comprises:
retrieving a list of available e-mail addresses from said memory of said e-mail enabled
printer;
selecting at least one e-mail address from said retrieved list of available e-mail addresses; and
addressing an e-mail with said selected at least one e-mail address.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein said creating an e-mail comprises:
entering at least one e-mail address into said e-mail enabled printer using a control panel
of said e-mail enabled printer; and
addressing an e-mail with said at least one entered e-mail address.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein said selecting at least one of said print jobs stored in said memory of said e-mail enabled printer for distribution comprises: retrieving a list of print jobs stored in said memory of said e-mail enabled printer from said memory; displaying said list of print jobs stored in said memory; providing a control panel for selecting at least one of said print jobs in said list of print jobs; and selecting at least one of said print jobs using said control panel.

16. A system for distributing data, comprising:
a network; and
at least one e-mail enabled printer for communicating over said network, said e-mail enabled printer comprising at least one microprocessor for operating said e-mail enabled printer; a display panel for displaying data, and a job retention memory for storing data for distribution.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein said e-mail enabled printer further comprises a control panel for selecting data from data displayed on said display device.

18. The system of claim 16, further comprising, data stored in said job retention memory.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein said e-mail enabled printer further comprises at least one list of e-mail addresses for displaying on said display device.

20. The system of claim 16, further comprising:
an Internet connection for communicating with said network;
an e-mail server for communicating with said network; and
at least one workstation for communication with said network.